



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

December 13, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Jo-Ann Keegan, Chairperson
Erin Gendron, Board Member (remote)
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, Board Member
Lisa Golden, HHS Director
Shawn Machado, Sr. Sanitary Code Inspector
Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor

Chairperson Jo-Ann Keegan called the Special Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 5:37 PM. Chair Keegan noted that Board Member Erin Gendron was participating remotely via telephone.

12/13/2021 - Minutes

1. NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

1.I. For Discussion: Facial Covering Requirements in Public Indoor/Enclosed Locations

The Board discussed the potential need for a facial covering mandate in City of Lowell public indoor/enclosed locations.

Chairperson Keegan opened the floor to those opposed

The following members of the Public spoke in opposition:

Jacqueline Kennedy - 45 Palmer St, Lowell

Scott Pelletier - 45 Palmer St., Lowell. Mr. Pelletier provided the Board with a list of studies regarding the ineffectiveness of face masks.

Eric Faulkner – 197 Market St., Lowell. Mr. Faulkner requested the Board come up with an alternative

Sara Quigley – 34 Jackson St., Lowell

Meghan Herron – 33 Middle St., Lowell

Tim Kelleher – 98 Middle St., Lowell

Andy Jacobs 61 Market St., Lowell

The above persons spoke against the mandate and the effect of the mandates on their businesses. The Board was provided a list of studies regarding the ineffectiveness of facial covering by Mr. Pelletier. Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Kelleher requested the Board attempt to find an alternative to a facial covering mandate. Mr. Herron inquired as to the enforcement of the mandate and that it should be the businesses' choice to have or not have clients wear facial coverings. Mr. Jacobs asked if vaccinations for citizens were being looked at and the possibility of an incentive to encourage people to vaccinate. Mr. Pelletier readdressed the Board relative to Governor Charles Baker's stance on facial covering mandates.

Chairperson Keegan opened the floor to those in favor.

No persons were registered to speak in favor.

The Board addressed the members of the public present regarding their concerns and why the Board was considering this regulation due to the significant rise in COVID-19 case rates and positivity numbers.

Motion: made by Member William Galvin seconded by Member Kathleen Cullen-Lutter to remove "when maintaining a six (6) foot distance between individuals is not possible." from section 6.

VOTE:

Jo-Ann Keegan - Yes
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter - Yes
Erin Gendron - Yes
Lisa Golden - Yes
William Galvin - Yes
Vote passes 5-0

Motion: To accept the revised COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Regulation of the City of Lowell Board of Health made by Member William Galvin, seconded by Member Kathleen Cullen-Lutter.

VOTE:

Jo-Ann Keegan - Yes
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter - Yes
Erin Gendron - Yes
Lisa Golden - Yes
William Galvin - Yes
Vote passes 5-0

2. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn at 6:20 PM was made by Member William Galvin, seconded by Member Kathleen Cullen-Lutter. All in favor.